

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1744.

Extract from a Private Letter.

Hague, August 5, 1744.



YOU blame me for my long Silence, and I justify myself, by telling you fairly, that I am silent, because I know not what to write. Our Politics here are continually fluctuating; what To-day is approved, To-morrow is condemned; and such a Spirit of Censure is gone forth amongst us, that no one can tell how any Action will be received; and hence it falls out, that such as, perhaps, deserve to be condemned, and punished, escape as well as the rest, with being a Week's Topic for Calumny; which is one of the many Evils produced by Faction.

We exercise ourselves, at present, in discussing the Conduct of the P— of H— P—, who defended Ypres. I will inform you of the Points of most Importance in the Debate. As his Highness was very calm and attentive to his Charge, during the whole Continuance of the Siege of Menin, we expected Prodiges from him, and his Garrison, when they came to take their Turn. It was, however, thought a little odd, that every Day a Detachment of the Garrison was sent two Leagues from the Place, in search of Pallisades, when as many as were wanted might have been brought in at once, by pressing a sufficient Body of Peasants, and employing them on the Service. By this Practice, an Hundred Men were made Prisoners before Ground was broke; which, to a Garrison, proved an irreparable Mischief.

Another Slip was, his Highness's confiding in the solemn Promises of the Magistrates, that, as soon as they became sensible of a Siege being intended, they would destroy all their Villages, Inclosures, Trees, &c. under the Cannon of the Place, and fill up the hollow Roads, which they did not, to the great Advantage of the French, who behind these erected their Batteries without being perceived by the Besieged, till they had pulled down these very Country Houses, &c. to give their Artillery room to play; so that this saved the Time which would have been spent in carrying the Trenches up to those Houses.

Another unaccountable Piece of Negligence, was not demolishing a Redoubt on the Canal within a Hundred Yards of the Place, which they thought ought to be light. Upon this Redoubt, the French landed, the very last Night, a Battery of eight Pieces of Cannon, which carried Ball of 33 Pound; which Battery, from its Situation on an Eminence, commanded the Low Town, and also the Gate of Dixmude, by which the High and Low Town communicate, in such a manner, that it was impossible for people to pass and repass in Safety; which was a dreadful Inconvenience, and hurt the Garrison prodigiously.

We have an Oversight still more extraordinary than in remark, and it is, that of the two great Pools under a dike in overflowing the adjacent Country, because, out of Complaisance to the Magistrates, they were afraid of losing so many fine Pike and fat Cattle, put off the cutting the Banks from time to time in the End, the French put it out of their power, by seizing the Redoubts which commanded those Pools.

That of Sellebeck was most scandalously run up by a Sergeant and 15 Men, who under the Cannon of the Place, a Moment after the Sergeant pretended to cut the Dike; which was immediately stopp'd up again by the Besiegers, and that with very little Trouble.

If the Waters of these two Pools had been let fall at time, the People who were made Prisoners in those Redoubts had been saved; and sure the Siege of Menin gave sufficient Warning, and afforded sufficient opportunity. In that Case, the Post of St. Barbe had been effectually secured, which was of such Detriment to the Town when in the Power of the French; and the Besieged might actually have employ'd double the Number they did in the Defence of the lower Town.

These, Sir, are the grand Errors; and, indeed, Water could not easily have been committed, which was put so important a Place as Ypres into the Hands of the French; at a Time too, when all Europe was convinced, one Place well defended, would have given more to the Heroine of Hungary, and her Allies, to combine a Force sufficient to have baffled their utmost

Efforts. These are the Steps by which the French have had the Glory of taking, in ten Days open Trenches, a Place which might have been defended as many Weeks. How much was due to their Valour, shall be shewn when I write next.

Paris, July 31. The Prince of Conti has made himself Master of the two Posts. He took his Measures so well, that he got round the Barricades with three different Corps, the Chief of which came down through the Valley of Stru. M. de Palavichini, who commanded at the Post of the Barricades, seeing himself in Danger of having the Enemy in his Rear, thought proper to retire. Thereupon the French Army came down to Sambuc, in order to advance towards Demont. As soon as the Prince of Conti had Advice that they had got Possession of that Post, he sent Orders to all the other Generals, that commanded particular Bodies, to forbear making any other Attack, and to direct their March towards Demont. These Orders came too late to M. de Givri. He having observed, that in Consequence of what passed at the Barricades, the Enemy had called off Part of the Troops which they had at Chateau Dauphin, thought it a proper Time to fall upon this last Post; which he took after a stout Resistance, and an Engagement of above four Hours. The Defence was so obstinate, that our Generals had despaired of Success, and had actually thrice sounded to retreat; but the Troops refused to obey, and came off with Honour, but with a prodigious Loss. We had but 10 Battalions engaged in this Attack. Two of our General Officers were wounded in it, three Colonels kill'd, and all the Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors, and Captains of Grenadiers, either kill'd or wounded. The King of Sardinia was himself present, and expressed his Astonishment at the Obstinacy of the Action. We can form no Judgment of the Consequences of this Affair, till we have farther Intelligence.

## HOME PORTS.

Dover, July 30. Wind S. Yesterday three Dutch Men of War were off here, bound to Spithead; but the Wind blowing contrary, and fresh, they went away for the Downs. This Morning two Men of War, and several Vessels, sail'd by here for the Downs; but as none of them stopped here, could not get their Names.

Dart, July 30. Wind W. This Morning his Majesty's Ships Winchester, Dover, and Hind Sloop, sail'd to the Westward. Last Night arrived the Grampus Sloop, and sail'd again this Morning on a Cruise; arriv'd also the Phenix Man of War from the Westward, with several Coasters under her Convoy; and three Dutch Men of War. Came down the Ruffout Privateer, Capt. Couch, bound on a Cruise. Remains the Lenox, Shoreham, and Phenix Men of War, the Wolf Sloop, and three Dutch Men of War.

## Arrived

At Glasgow, the Grocer, Withart, from Lisbon; the Thistle, Brown, and the —, Cambell, both from Virginia.

## LONDON.

Captain Griffith, of the Britannia, from New York, on the 8th Instant, 100 Leagues to the Northward of the Western Islands, fell in with ten Sail of French Men of War, and an English Brig in Company with them. One of the Fleet, a Ship of 70 Guns, chased him eight Hours, but could not come up with him: They were lying too when Captain Griffith saw them first.

The Princess Louis's Man of War, Sir William Hewet Commander, now lying at Deptford, is order'd to be Mann'd and Victual'd at that Place with all Expedition, for Channel Service.

Last Sunday Mr. Jordan, a Mercer of this City, had the Misfortune to be thrown from his Horse in the Marshes near Edmonton; by which Accident his Thigh was broke, and and his Skull fractur'd.

On Monday was order'd for Exportation at the Custom-house 6500 Ounces of Foreign Gold Coin, and 10480 Ounces of Foreign Silver Coin, for Holland.

At the Assizes held at Croydon, for the County of Surrey, which ended on Saturday last, James Tawites, indicted for the Murder of a Sailor on board the Anne, Capt. Marshall, from Jamaica, then in the River Thames, was Acquitted.

John Derring, charg'd with the Murder of a Man in a Skittle Ground, was found Guilty of Manslaughter.

Six were found Guilty of Grand Larceny, and Two of Petit Larceny; of which, One was order'd for Transportation, Five burnt in the Hand, and Two order'd to be whipt.

Thomas Browne, condemn'd at the former Assizes, receiv'd Sentence of Transportation for 14 Years.

John Grayling, mentioned in our Paper of Wednesday last, was admitted to Bail.

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Lord Sandys, Gaffer of his Majesty's Household, set out from his House in Upper Grosvenor's Street, for his Seat at Omsbury, near Worcester.

As did also the Right Hon. the Earl of Stanhope, from his House in Grosvenor's Square, to his Seat at Chevening in Kent.

The Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor has appointed the First General Seal to be held on the 12th, and the Second General Seal on the 18th of October next, before Michaelmas Term.

On Monday last a Domestic belonging to a Gentleman of his Majesty's Board of Works, was discharg'd his Service, for attempting to commit the detestable Sin of Sodomy.

Yesterday Morning died at his House in Charles-street, Westminster, Mr. Thomas Bickford, an ingenious Locksmith; and much noted for his Method in hanging of Bells.

The latter End of last Week the Wife of Mr. George Alford, Assistant-Surgeon at Woolwich Yard, was safely deliver'd of a Son. 'Tis remarkable that the Gentlewoman is 54 Years of Age, and has been married many Years, but never had a Child before.

## BANKRUPT.

Thomas Evans, now or late of Oswestry, in the County of Salop, Grocer and Chapman.

| High Water this Day<br>at London-Bridge. | Morning<br>04 45 | Evening<br>05 04 |
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Bank Stock, 127 1-4th to 147. India, 178 to 1-4th South Sea, Nothing done. Old Annuity, 112 1-half New, ditto, 110 3-4ths to 7-8ths. Three per Cent 93 3-4ths to 94. Ditto 1743, 93 3-4ths to 94. Ditto 1744, 94. Seven per Cent. Loan, Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Royal Assurance, 77 1-half. London Assurance, 11. India Bonds, 31. to 18. Prem. Bank Circulation, 5 1-2 1-2 Prem. Set Taxes, Nothing done. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, 100. Three per Cent. ditto, 90. Million Bank, 115. Equivalent, 108. Tickets, 111. 4 1-2.

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N. B. The Publick are desired to take Notice, that the Advertisement of the Plan of Fort Louis, price Sixpence, mentions having in it all the new Works lately raised about it by the French; whereas in Fact, it has not the new Fortifications raised about it in the Year 1741, nor the Horn Work rebuilt at that Time; both of which are most material to shew the Strength of the Fort on the Side of the Margravate of Baden; which will appear to be true, on comparing the above Plan with this.

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